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Overseas Outlook

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DEPOSITORY 374

National Library Service
for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

October–December 1980, Vol. 4, No. 1

Increase in overseas readers

October 1 marks the beginning of the fiscal year, a good time to look back at the accomplishments of the year. So we counted readers served and added up the monthly circulation figures, and the results were a bit surprising. During fiscal year 1979, we served 187 active readers living abroad. In 1980, we served 239 — an increase of 52.

We did not have special publicity about our overseas program, but those getting the service must have told others about it. There was a large increase in Mexico, especially near Chapala and Guadulajara where the new Lakeside Library opened and many retired Americans are living.

There are not many children under thirteen among our overseas patrons — we counted only seven last year. There was a slight decline among braille readers, from twenty-five in 1979 to only twenty-two in 1980. Most overseas patrons read both disc recordings and cassettes. In 1979 the count of disc readers was fewer than that of cassette readers, but in 1980 this was reversed.

There was a corresponding increase in the circulation figures. We mailed 9,584 containers last year; and thousands of magazines were sent directly from the producers. This does not include catalogs, bibliographies, machine needles, and other equipment also sent to overseas readers.

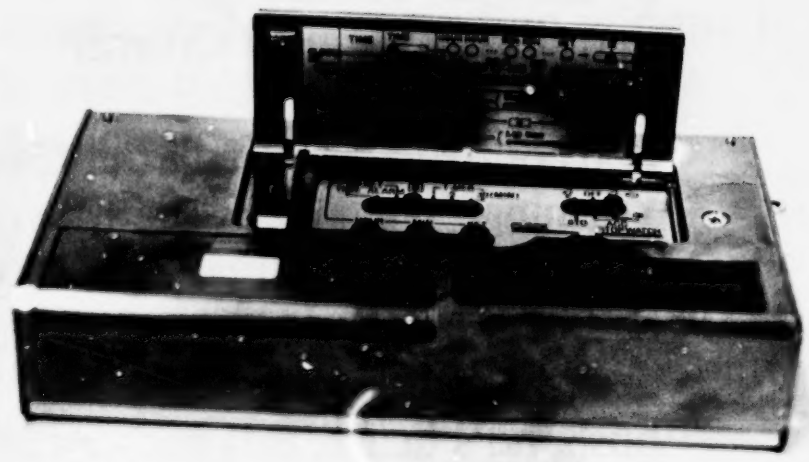
Each overseas patron read an average of 40 books during the year. We suspect that this is much higher than the number of books read annually by most of the sighted population. We have some very avid readers; many get four books a week. Some are omnivorous and read almost anything. Others have special interests such as detective stories or war stories — we have a hard time keeping up with them sometimes.

We are happy that the service is growing and reaching so many more people. We look forward to continued growth in the new fiscal year.

Talking clock

A battery operated talking alarm clock, made by the Sharp Corporation in Japan, is available from various sources. The CT-660E Elsi Quartz tells the time with a battery operated "voice." By pushing the correct button, the voice announces the time in seconds, minutes, or hours. When the alarm goes off, it plays a Boccherini minuet. Measuring 2½ inches by 4½ inches, the clock fits in a purse or pocket.

The clock is available through local Sharp distributors and the American Foundation for the Blind, Inc. (15 W. 16th St., New York, New York 10011), among others. Prices vary with distributors.



CT-660E Elsi Quartz talking clock

LC 19.13/3:

February birthdays — Washington and Lincoln

February marks the birthdays of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. We have selected the following books about Washington and Lincoln from one of our new bibliographies, *Biography: Government and Politics.* The publication will be available later this winter, but the books are available now through regular channels. An order form is on page 4.

Washington

Mount Vernon Family RC 12184
by Elswyth Thane
narrated by Michael McCullough
1 cassette
Account of George Washington's affectionate relationship with his own nieces and nephews and Martha's children and grandchildren from her first marriage. Based on letters and other documents. 1968.

Washington: The Indispensable Man RC 8838
by James Thomas Flexner
narrated by Bradley Bransford
5 cassettes
From the rash, overconfident young military leader to the tired, frustrated old man of the 1790s. Stripped of legend and hero worship, Washington emerges as a real human being who made mistakes, but always recovered. 1974.

Washington's Lady RC 12058
by Elswyth Thane
narrated by Virginia Gardiner
3 cassettes
A reconstruction of Martha Custis Washington's days as the wife of one of the most prominent citizens of Virginia and of the new nation. Mrs. Washington destroyed their letters after her husband's death; this account is based on contemporary documents including first-person accounts and the profuse correspondence between George Washington and many other people. 1960.

Lincoln

Mary Todd Lincoln: Her Life and Letters RD 6694
by Justin G. Turner and Linda Lovitt Turner
narrated by Mary Jane Higby
10 discs
A collection of letters written by the wife of Abraham Lincoln. Beginning in 1840 when Mary Todd was 21, they are addressed to her husband, children, friends, and historical figures. With an introduction by Fawn M. Brodie. 1972.

With Malice toward None: The Life of Abraham Lincoln RC 11680
by Stephen B. Oates
narrated by Guy Sorel
4 cassettes
Sympathetic portrait of the complex president. Seen as richly human, Lincoln was troubled by melancholy and deeply committed to the rights of all people. 1977.

Mailing subscriptions

Thanks to your responses to the reader survey sent in June, we have been able to make many needed corrections to the address records used in mailing your *Talking Book Topics* and *Braille Book Review* subscriptions. While changing these records, we also discovered that lately some publications have not been sent air mail. We have taken action to correct this problem and hope that you will soon be receiving the publications you want in the formats that you want them in a timely fashion and correctly addressed.

Readers often express interest in knowing how our mailing system works. The system for sending your *TBT* and *BBR* subscriptions works like this: your librarian, David Thomas, relays address

changes, requests for new subscriptions, or cancellations, to Mary Dickerson, a library technician on our staff. Mrs. Dickerson carefully checks the existing subscription files and fills out forms to record additions and changes. She then sends these forms to an outside firm that prints *TBT* and *BBR* mailing labels. There, keypunchers record the new information in the computer, which then prints labels for the publications requested and sends them to the publishers of the various formats of *TBT* and *BBR*.

Eventually this system will be used for all magazines, so we are especially eager to have your correct mailing address. You may notify us of incorrect addresses on your *TBT* and *BBR* simply by mailing us the incorrect address label with the correct address written beside it, or you may write a letter or a postcard. Please mail any address changes to David S. Thomas, Librarian, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Washington, D.C. 20542 U.S.A. Please do **not** mail address corrections to the return address printed on the back of *TBT* or *BBR* — this only causes delays.

International briefs

United Kingdom. The British National Uniform Type Committee, established in 1916 as the ultimate legislative authority on questions of braille coding and layout practice in the United Kingdom, has changed its name to the Braille Authority for the United Kingdom.

• E. J. Venn has been appointed director-general of the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) to succeed Eric T. Boulter, who retired at the end of August. Mr. Venn has been deputy director-general since 1972, after thirteen years as head of the RNIB Services to the Blind Department.

The RNIB talking-books service produces eight new titles a week. A new computer system aids in sending 25,000 cassettes per week and receiving approximately the same number from the 54,000 members. The Students' Tape Library sends out about 600 cassettes each week. More than 5,500 titles, with an average length of sixteen hours, have been recorded by volunteers since the service was established in 1964. The Students' Braille Library provides a wide selection of handcopied braille for specialized subjects where only a few copies are needed.

Iceland. The Association of the Blind, established in 1939, sponsors a braille library, a talking-book center, and accomodations for businesses owned by blind and physically handicapped people who number approximately 500 among the 225,000 inhabitants. Most Association funds come from the sale of lottery tickets, with some support from other organizations. The government pays for braille books and for distribution of material recorded by volunteers. Volunteers also read texts on the Icelandic State Radio.

Malaysia. The University of Malaya Library is supplying text books for blind students in a combination of recorded and braille formats. Easily read portions are recorded, while diagrams, maps, tables, and complicated equations are brailled. Special emphasis is given to local materials and native speakers are taping materials in the national language. Most recording is done in English by the British Women's Association of Malaysia.

Brazil. A new era in braille production started when President Joâo Baptista Figueredo pressed the button that set in motion the new computerized braille printing equipment of the Fundação do Libro do Cègo no Brasil.

Overseas Outlook

South Africa. Tape Aids for the Blind has been recording books for twenty-three years and has produced a total of 3,560 titles. The agency provides cassette tapes in English, Afrikaans, Hindi, Tamil, and Islamic to 2,400 library members of all races. The only requirement for membership is a medical certificate stating that the individual is permanently, partially, or intermittently deprived of sight or temporarily or permanently so disabled as to make reading impossible or undesirable. The agency is based in Durban, with branches in eight other cities. The Johannesburg studio produces two magazines in English and one in Afrikaans.

World Council for the Welfare of the Blind (WCWB). The WCWB newsletter is available in recorded versions in Spanish or in English. For Spanish, write to Don Jesus Albeniz, Director, ONCE, Calle de Jose Ortega y Gasset 18, Madrid 6, Spain. For English, write to SRF, S-122, 88 Enskade, Sweden.

New overseas model talking-book machine

The model B71A overseas talking-book machine is nearly ten years old and supplies are low, but production of 3,000 new overseas model talking-book machines is already under way.

The new machine, model B79, has the same features found in the model B71A: ability to operate with either 220 or 110 volt currents, variable speed control, and a battery pack that recharges automatically when the machine is plugged in. It is also the same size as the new machine.

A new feature on the B79 is an automatic "end of record play": when the record ends, the turn table stops automatically.

There is nothing revolutionary about the new disc player; so if your old machine is working well, don't trade it in for a new one. Keep in mind that even well-packed new equipment can be damaged in a long trip by truck, train, or ship. There can also be problems with postal and customs officials. So if you have a machine that is working well, hold on to it. But remember — replacements are available and will be sent out promptly when necessary.

Order Form

Fill in your name and address. Check the proper boxes and return this form to National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20542 USA

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

Country_____

Washington and Lincoln

Discs

☐ RD 6694

Cassettes

☐ RC 8838
☐ RC 11680
☐ RC 12058
☐ RC 12184

Errata

The July–September issue of *Overseas Outlook* should have read Vol. 3, No. 4; not Vol. 3, No. 3, as printed.

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National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20542

OVERSEAS OUTLOOK

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NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
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Braille Services

Grade I Experiment—Grade I braille editions of *National Geographic* and *Children's Digest* will be circulated free to readers who wish to participate in an experiment to determine the popularity of uncontracted braille. Write to Dave Thomas, Resources Coordination Unit, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Washington, D.C. 20542, U.S.A. if you want to participate. (Grade 2 braille editions of these two monthly magazines will continue to be distributed.)

Free Braille Course—Write to the Hadley School for the Blind, 700 Elm Street, Winnetka, Illinois 60093, U.S.A. if you want to learn braille through a free correspondence course.

Instructional Materials—Let us know if you want to receive braille instructional materials and need to know where to purchase braille writers, paper, and other equipment.

Notes to Readers

Cassette Magazines to Flexible Disc Format—The following cassette magazines are being converted to direct-mail, flexible disc editions as of the dates indicated:

Foreign Affairs, April-June issue

Personnel and Guidance Journal, March issue

LC 19.13/3.

QST, March issue
Social Work, March-April issue
The Writer, March issue

Current readers will receive these magazines in the new format. If you want to start a free subscription to them in disc format, let us know.

Spanish Books—The October-December 1979 issue of *Overseas Outlook* should have reported that about 400 (not 800) Spanish titles have already been selected for production during the coming years. More are planned.

Libraries in Other Countries—If you use braille or recorded materials from libraries in your country of residence, tell us about your experiences. Address letters to *Overseas Outlook*, NLS Resources Coordination Unit.

For the names and addresses of agencies in your area, write: Dave Thomas, Resources Coordination Unit, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Washington, D.C. 20542, U.S.A. We will send information on the services we can identify.

Service in Israel

NLS readership throughout Israel has grown to thirteen borrowers—high compared to most other countries.

Daveed Mandell of Jerusalem is urging all American program users in Israel to meet to discuss matters of common interest. We do not release names and addresses of patrons without permission, but those who are interested should contact Mr. Mandell at: Rechov Hantke 52/1, Kiryat Hayovel, Jerusalem, Israel.

NLS Profile
Dave Thomas

Your main NLS contact, Dave Thomas, has been on the Library of Congress staff for thirty-seven years. He began by helping to serve readers in Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, and the District of Columbia. Since the Resources Coordination Unit was organized in 1974, he has served as regional librarian for American citizens living abroad.

A graduate of George Washington University with a B.A. in English, Dave was employed by the American Red Cross Volunteer Training Unit from 1937 to 1942. One of his duties was to give the correspondence course in braille proofreading. Although Dave prefers recorded books and does not read braille for pleasure, he finds knowledge of braille useful in his work.

For several years Dave was president of the District of Columbia Association of Workers for the Blind. He helped deliver machines, visited many blind patrons in their homes and learned about their problems. In recent years he has been moderator for a biweekly book discussion group of elderly patrons interested in literature and nonfiction.

Letters

Mrs. John H. Wright from the Canary Islands sent us this letter for her husband:

"We receive talking books, both records and cassettes, in batches—usually three or four at a time and then there is a long period of time between books. We understand the

shipping is very irregular from the United States to this side of the Atlantic.

"Our thought was that we could exchange books with people in Europe, Spain, or in the Canary Islands—this would possibly be of interest to others here who receive your invaluable service to the blind."

If you are in the Canary Islands area and would like your name referred to Mr. Wright to exchange books, let us know.

A very active reader from Bangkok, Thailand who has been with the program for many years tells this story:

A man here who used to be an ambassador to Thailand told me that in the days of absolute monarchs, a king would often command a renowned actor to read to him. It is a strange thing that I can still have the service, although absolute monarchies disappeared long ago.

Please send me more talking books and be sure that your service brings happiness to many people among whom is

Philip A. Damon
c/o American Embassy,
ICA
APO San Francisco
California 96346

Potpourri

Dymo Braille Tape Labeler. An improved version of the Dymo Braille Tape Writer (labeler) is now available from the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB), 15 W. 16th St., New York, New York 10011. This new writer features forty-five character positions, number sign, capital sign, several punctuation marks, the decimal point, and a

variety of whole-word and part-word contractions. It is AFB Model BTW-400 and costs $39.95, which includes three rolls of one-half-inch vinyl labeling tape. The writer can also be used with AFB's one-inch magnetic and aluminum labeling tape.

Recipes. Seafood recipes using oysters, clams, lobster, and fish, are now available in braille. For a free copy write: Braille Seafood Recipes, Department of Economics and Community Development, 1748 Forest Drive, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

Catalog Available. "Aud-A-Buy," the mail order catalog of Science for the Blind Products, is now available free of charge in print and on 8 rpm flexible discs. The catalog contains descriptions and prices for a large variety of products, including low-vision aids, instruments made or adapted for the blind, cassette players, toys, puzzles, and games. Copies of the catalogs may be obtained from Science for the Blind Products, P.O. Box 385, Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087.

Clothing for the Handicapped. A catalog of special fashions and other items for the handicapped is available from the Fashion Department, *Woman's Day*, Rocky Hill, New Jersey 08553. It lists easy-on, easy-off clothing for women with physical disabilities: zipper front slips, special bras and girdles, Velcro fastened wrap skirts. Self-help conveniences are also listed: long reach tongs, doorknob helpers, and hair rollers you can use with only one hand. The twenty-page catalog costs fifty cents.

RC 9472 *Treasury of Courage and Confidence* by Norman Vincent Peale

RC 11817 *The Art of Learning to Love Yourself* by Cecil G. Osborne

Disc

RD 6223 *Understanding Fear in Ourselves and Others* by Bonaro Wilkinson Overstreet

RD 9562 *Your Erroneous Zones* by Wayne W. Dyer

RD 7306 *You Can If You Think You Can* by Norman Vincent Peale

RD 11720 *Self Creation* by George H. Weinberg

RD 6509 *Conquering Loneliness* by Jean and Veryl Rosenbaum

Braille

BRA 802 *How to Make and Break Habits* by James Lockhart Mursell

BR 1469 *The Art of Clear Thinking* by Rudolf Franz Flesch

BR 3844 *How to Take Charge of Your Own Life* by Mildred Newman

LC 19.13/3:

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Overseas Outlook

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National Library Service
for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

April–June 1980, Vol. 3, No. 3

Chapala local library service

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DEPOSITORY 376

Readers living in the Chapala, Mexico, vicinity have organized to help improve NLS service and extend it to other eligible U.S. citizens living in the area. Herbert Rhoton, an NLS reader and member of the Lake Chapala Society, used time during his convalescence from a heart attack to lead this effort.

Mr. Rhoton contacted NLS and explained that the Society, a social service organization made up of American and Canadian retirees, operates a lending library that could be used for a NLS deposit collection. NLS approved the plan and now the Lake Chapala Society Library stores a small collection of books and a few extra machines. The Society plans to use volunteers, among them veteran users of the NLS program, to help readers choose books and to deliver them to users unable to leave home.

In addition to machines and 150 books, the library has on hand applications, brochures, catalogs, bibliographies, and reference circulars. Replacement machines are immediately available from this deposit collection so reading is not interrupted for long periods because of a malfunctioning cassette or record player.

To qualify as a deposit collection, an institution such as a nursing home, library, or hospital must have ten or more eligible users. More than twenty-five current NLS readers live within a fifty-mile radius of Chapala, a town about twenty miles south of Guadalajara. These readers will continue to be served individually from Washington, but may choose to enjoy the benefits of the local collection as well.

Anyone in the area wishing to use these services may contact Donald Nielson, Deposit Collection Coordinator, at Apartado Postal 58, Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico, or visit the Library and Tourist Information Center of the Lake Chapala Society, Madero 248 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

The new collection is the second NLS deposit library in a foreign country. The first was established in 1976 at the Recreation Services Library of the United States Army Hospital in Berlin.

New mailing list system

NLS is in the process of implementing a new automated mailing list system for distributing its publications. Subscribers who are not receiving their publications, are receiving duplicates, or have an incorrect address listed should notify us as soon as possible.

This new computer system will facilitate mailing *Talking Book Topics, Braille Book Review,* and other publications such as *Overseas Outlook.*

Notes to readers

Leaving Israel

Daveed Mandell of Jerusalem, Israel, is returning to the United States and will be unable to organize a meeting of all American program users in Israel as he had proposed in a letter in the January-March issue of *Overseas Outlook.*

Caller from Canada

Daniel Boorstin, Librarian of Congress, received a call from one of NLSs patrons in Canada when he was a guest recently on the Larry King show. This is an all-night talk show in which people from all over the country call in comments and questions on various subjects. The caller was very complimentary about our service to overseas readers. Thank you.

Helpful hints

Place your mark immediately to the left of the book number to order titles from *Braille Book Review*. When the mark is between numbers we don't know which book is wanted.

- Blue or black ink or crayon should be used to check the squares on the *Talking Book Topics* order sheets.
- Write address numbers clearly. Include the full address each time you write.
- When you report an address change, please give both the old and new address. Also be sure to list the magazines you have been receiving so we can send the change to the producers immediately. If you have two addresses—for example a home address and an APO address—indicate which material should go to each address.
- Do not put messages in book containers. It is against postal regulations.
- Tie a piece of string to the buckle or strap of the container of a defective book. If you want the book replaced, write a separate letter to NLS.
- When machines are returned you should send a separate covering letter stating whether you no longer need the machine or if it needs repair and you want a replacement.
- Overseas machines should be returned to NLS when you return to the United States permanently. Machines designed for use in the U.S. will be issued by your new regional library.

NLS national conference

This year the NLS National Conference of Librarians Serving Blind and Physically Handicapped Readers will be part of the Helen Keller Centennial Congress being held in Boston, Massachusetts, June 23-28.

The Congress is a joint meeting of more than thirty organizations of and for blind individuals or agencies with interests related to blindness and physical handicaps. The Congress will bring together approximately 3,000 people from this country and abroad for exchange of ideas and information. At the same time, the Congress will honor the 100th anniversary of Helen Keller's birth on June 28.

Up the river without a cassette

Providing the kind of service that readers need is a long-standing NLS goal and frequently a challenge. A recent letter from an American citizen living abroad presented a whole series of challenges.

Her address is Cucui, Amazonas, Brazil, but she describes the real location as "a hundred dugout canoe miles from Cucui." Foreign packages to Cucui go through the customs house in Manaus, still another thousand miles away. Because of the distance and the difficulty, she receives mail by canoe only three times a year—in April, August, and December.

There is no electricity, and therefore no way to recharge batteries for disc and cassette players.

Postal regulations and transportation problems make returning braille books almost impossible.

She wrote that she could not ask for recorded material, because she assumed that using a cassette machine was impossible without a way of recharging the battery.

The problem of using a cassette machine in the jungle—without a wall-socket to plug into—seemed insurmountable. But not to NLS Assistant Chief of Materials Development Henry Paris and his technical staff. The answer—solar power. According to Mr. Paris, "No new technology is required to produce a solar-powered machine; it's simply a matter of adapting existing technology to the particular purpose."

Plans were soon made and the parts ordered to provide a small, low-cost, light-weight, heavy-duty unit to recharge the cassette-machine battery. The silicon solar cell unit will measure less than a standard sheet of typing paper and will be from 1/4 to 3/8 of an inch thick. Assistant Technical Officer Nick O'Donnell has modified the Library of Congress cassette player to accept the solar power unit.

Other problems to consider were

Braille on Cassette Tape

Something new for braille users—braille on cassette tape—has been developed by companies in France, Germany, and the United States. NLS has obtained a number of these machines for extensive testing and evaluation. We'll keep you posted on these test results when they are completed.

The first machine to be evaluated is the ELINFA Digicassette, produced in France. It is a cassette machine that accepts, stores, and displays braille characters. There is no paper copy. Braille is displayed by the raising of small movable metal pins in one corner of the machine. The dots formed by the pins are arranged in the usual braille cell; twenty cells form a single line of braille. After a line is read, a switch is touched and the next line appears in its place. The signals which cause the device to raise or lower the appropriate pins in the correct sequence are stored on a cassette tape in the machine. In this way, 300 pages of braille can be stored on a ninety-minute cassette.

The ELINFA Digicassette is not only used for reading braille, but can also serve as a braille writer. It has six keys and a space key used to form the letter or character exactly as the standard braille writer although we are not evaluating this model. It can also be back spaced, one space at a time, to make corrections. The braille is stored on a cassette and text can be input manually *and* through the use of a computer.

A major advantage of this system is that it saves space. You could receive a braille book in a small container with one or two cassettes instead of a box with two or three heavy volumes of braille. Another advantage is that cassettes can be duplicated on the same equipment used for our sound recorded cassette books.

The machine itself is small and weighs only four pounds. It runs on rechargeable batteries as well as AC power and the keys are silent and fast, which makes note-taking another possible use for the machine.

A New Year A New Leaf

January ushers in not only a new year but a new decade. This new year, as in times past, will be celebrated by parties, giving gifts, and visits from friends and loved ones. Along with these celebrations, many of us will be making resolutions to change bad habits and resolving to make this decade better than the last. We have selected a few books which may be helpful to you in turning over your new leaf for this year.

Send requests for the books listed below to: Resources Coordination Unit, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20542, U.S.A.

Cassette

CB 537 *Self-Renewal; the Individual and the Innovative Society* by John William Gardner

corrosion during the canoe trip, fungus growth, and humidity. The solution: coating all parts with a sealant before shipment.

The unit should be completed and ready for delivery before the August canoe trip up the Amazon. A few hours in the tropical sun once or twice a week should be sufficient to keep the battery charged for normal use.

Once the design is completed for the first jungle model, it will be possible to build the solar-powered machines for readers in other remote areas that are without electricity. The solar-powered units will not be mass produced as a standard item for general distribution.

The reader writes about her problems lightly and with humor. She has been in Brazil since 1972, where she and her husband and daughter are working to introduce food plants from similar environments. They are completely isolated, with only rare contacts with hunters, scientific groups, and the porters who bring in supplies.

Potpourri

Sermons available
Sermons of Dr. Norman Vincent Peale are now available quarterly on cassette. To receive cassettes free of charge, write to the Foundation of Christian Living, Pawling, New York 12564.

Typing program
A custom designed typing program is available for people who are legally blind, paralyzed, brain-injured, mentally retarded, or stroke victims, or who have various limb or digital amputations. For a free catalog contact Special Education Step-by-Step, 2947 Bayside Court, Wantagh, New York 11793.

Root tracing
A genealogical library has been established to assist visually impaired, deaf, and other physically handicapped individuals in tracing their roots. This nonprofit library lends instructional material in braille, large print, and cassette, in addition to a 5,000-volume collection of print genealogical books, pamphlets, and magazines. For further information write the Genealogical Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Inc., 15 Dunwoody Park, Suite 130, Atlanta, Georgia 30338.

Cassette machines go international

A two-year effort to inform the world community serving blind and physically handicapped individuals of the benefits and availability of the NLS cassette player has yielded impressive results. In this short period of time orders ranging from one machine to ten thousand machines have been placed by over seventeen international sources.

Purchasers include but are not limited to the Australia Royal Blind Society, the Organasacion Nacional De Ciegos de España (Madrid, Spain), the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, and various libraries in England, the Royal Blind Society of New South Wales, various libraries in Canada, the Comite Internacional Pro Ciegos (Mexico), and The Union of the Blind of Croatia, Yugoslavia.

An inquiry has also been received from the Soviet Union and a sample machine has been sent for consideration.

The use of a standard cassette player and format by a larger number of libraries for blind and physically handicapped individuals would enable an international exchange of books on a scale not currently possible.

Foreign language program update

Emphasis in the foreign language program during the past year has been on producing Spanish-language titles. At the beginning of 1980 there were 121 recorded and 9 braille Spanish titles in the NLS collection. An additional 354 Spanish-language titles have been selected for production.

Other foreign language titles to be produced by NLS include a limited number of titles in French, German, Italian, Polish, and possibly a few other

languages. In building a collection of these foreign titles the primary emphasis is on use of recorded and braille titles from overseas sources.

Currently there are ten French, three German, and one Italian language titles listed in the NLS microfiche catalog. Eighteen French, thirteen German, seven Italian, and five Portuguese language titles are now being produced.

The three recorded foreign language magazines in the NLS program all have had an increase in subscribers during 1979. *Selecciones del Reader's Digest* increased from 810 subscribers to 972, *Buenhogar* increased from 151 to 462, and *Reader's Digest* in German increased from 430 to 509. The feasibility of producing or acquiring *Reader's Digest* in French and Italian is being explored.

Problems in clearing copyright and obtaining print books continue to cause some delays in building a foreign language collection. Obtaining recorded or brailled material from abroad has its own set of additional problems including corresponding in foreign languages and reaching the proper organizations.

Some network libraries are working with volunteers to produce foreign language materials. About twelve Spanish language titles have been produced by the Texas Regional Library and are available for the use of other NLS readers.

Cassette survey continues

We need your opinion. In the October-December 1979 issue of *Overseas Outlook* we surveyed our readers about the possibility of recording *Overseas Outlook* on 4-track cassette in addition to continuing the current large-print edition. To date we have received only nine responses. Please let us know how you feel about this possible service.

We're extending the survey date until June 1, 1980. Please fill out, clip, and send the form below to:

Survey
Resources Coordination Unit
National Library Service for the Blind
and Physically Handicapped
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C. 20542, U.S.A.

Name: _____

_____

Address: _____

_____

_____

_____

If NLS produces *Overseas Outlook* on cassettes, I would be interested in receiving *Overseas Outlook:*

( ) on cassette rather than in large-print.
( ) in both cassette and large-print formats.
( ) in large-print format only.
( ) I would need a 4-track cassette machine to read *Overseas Outlook* on cassette.

Comments: _____

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All correspondence should be addressed to the Resources Coordination Unit.

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DEPOSITORY 376

Reader's Digest available

The American Printing House for the Blind is producing a cassette edition of the *Reader's Digest* for purchase beginning with the August 1980 issue. The cassettes will be available on a subscription basis only and will become the property of the reader. The subscription rate is $30.00 a year and is available through the American Printing House for the Blind, 1839 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky 40206.

Disc versions of *Reader's Digest* are still available at no cost to *Overseas Outlook* readers through NLS.

LC 19.13/3:

Special amplifiers

For patrons with hearing impairments, NLS provides special amplifiers to use with headphones. The amplifiers are available, however, only with special certification of hearing loss because they could possibly impair the hearing of people with normal hearing. For more information on the special amplifiers contact David Thomas, Librarian, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20542, U.S.A.

Postal regulations

International postal regulations on the mailing of matter to blind individuals have been produced in braille by the National Federation of the Blind. For a copy of the regulations send your name, address, and fifty cents to Jana Sims, Braille International Postal Regulations, 5842 Walrond, Kansas City, Missouri 64130, U.S.A.

A look at the music section

The NLS Music Section is a library within a library. The music staff circulates large-print braille and recorded materials from the collection of about 30,000 titles. They also produce, review, select, order, and catalog new cassette, disc, large-print, and braille materials.

Instructional recordings

All recorded NLS music materials are instructional—they show how to play instruments or contain master classes, interviews, or rehearsals. None consists entirely of music.

The NLS Music Section also hires consultants and works closely with them to produce cassette courses especially for the music program. Two courses, *How to Play Recorder,* for soprano and tenor recorders, and *A Beginning Accordion Method for the Blind,* have been completed.

Some instructional recorded materials—both cassette and disc—are acquired from commercial sources when the recordings do not require accompanying printed materials. *Blues Harp: An Instructional Method for Playing the Blues Harmonica* is a commercial recording adapted for use by blind and physically handicapped readers.

Large-print materials

Suitable large-print music materials are generally not available commercially and, therefore, are produced by the Library of Congress. Books about music—biographies, music history and theory tests, and music appreciation—are photographically enlarged. Large-print music scores are also photo-

graphically enlarged after which they are cut to fit special mats and then placed on the mats. Volunteers, most of whom are members of Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI), an international music fraternity, do the major part of the work.

Braille materials

The NLS music section both buys and produces braille materials. New titles to be produced by hand copying are selected on the basis of reader requests, standard repertoire lists, recommended editions, and other relevant guides. Certified braille music transcribers produce the NLS materials.

At the same time, an effort is made to purchase copies of music available from all the braille music presses in the world so the collection is truly international. In the last few years musical scores have been ordered from Brazil, West Germany, France, England, Italy, and Denmark.

NLS has published a *Dictionary of Braille Music Signs* to make it easier for braille music readers to understand the many formats and varying practices found in braille music from different countries. The new reference tool is available in large print and braille.

Catalogs

To inform music patrons about available titles, a series of catalogs is being completed on all music holdings. The Music and Musicians catalog series is presented by format and instrument. It covers instructional discs and cassettes; braille scores for piano, organ, chorus, voice, and other instruments; and large-print scores.

Letters from Overseas

Patron runs Mexican hotel

Mrs. Mildred Madsen, an NLS patron, has lived for twelve years in Oaxaca, Mexico, forty minutes by jet from Mexico City. Unlike many of our readers living in Mexico, Mrs. Madsen is not retired. She runs a small hotel, Casa Colonial. The old colonial hacienda, surrounded by flowers, lawns, bird-filled orchards, and a vegetable garden, has three single and nine double rooms accommodating about twenty guests.

Mrs. Madsen writes that receiving her books in like "a birthday or Christmas." She explains her reading interests by saying "I like everything that is not syrupy. Reading books is interesting and I am grateful. I am like a goat that eats everything, even tin." Once when she lived in the U.S., she complained to her reader advisor that she was being sent too many romances. For emphasis, she added that she liked to read books that were very deep. The next arrival was Gibbon's *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire.*

She likes good books and wishes she had someone to discuss them with. She likes fiction, but "without being squeamish or Victorian," she finds the sex a bit too "clinical." She also reads history, biography, anthropology, and archaeology. She lives in an area rich in archaeological remains and has written a book on tomb number seven at Monte Alban near Oaxaca that she hopes will be published.

Blind Peace Corps volunteer

At 68, Henry Stelzer is the first blind American to work with blind people in Lesotho (Basutoland), South Africa. In a population of approximately 1.3 million, one of every 300 people is blind or severely visually impaired.

Mr. Stelzer teaches in the only school for blind students in Lesotho. He has twenty-three students ranging in age from six to twenty-seven. Classes run from eight in the morning until six at night. Mr. Stelzer teaches braille, English, math, typing, and gardening. He has also been asked to teach the abacus.

The following excerpts are from a letter that he wrote in March.

Overseas Outlook

March 28, 1980
Hello

Friday night, March 6, I put on a "hot dog" feed for all my blind students and with the help of four women from the Woman's Vocational Institute, which is just next to my blind school, we managed quite well. This was the very first time in the life of any of the blind or the helpers that they ever tasted an American "Coney Island." This is so very unbelievable considering that the oldest helper was fifty-two years old. I had the buns made to order from a bakery which is managed by a friend of mine from England. I also had the relish, mustard, and ketchup for them. The women from the vocational school made the potato salad to my recipe—and it was really good even if I have to say so. I also made a great big pot of homemade beans and five gallons of homemade fruit punch.

After the meal, we sat around the fire and sang some hymns and some Bothotho songs and a few traditional American songs also.

So far I have established a lending tape library for the blind for Lesotho through the courtesy of the Government of the Republic of South Africa. There are over 3,000 cassettes available plus free cassette players for all the eligible blind now in Lesotho. The first individual that I enrolled in this program from Lesotho was a fifteen-year-old blind girl, Alletta.

The principal of our school is an elderly Mosotho woman. The other day I helped her fill in a scholarship paper to go to England to become more acquainted with blind rehabilitation. She said that this is her only opportunity since I am here to take over her position. The main thrust of my efforts here is to teach these people to carry on with the work after my two years are up.

Another resource that will be part of their program is the "guide dog" project. Until now, there is not a single blind or visually impaired person in the country of Lesotho that has a guide dog. I will be the first person from Lesotho to be trained at the guide dog school in Johannesburg. After I get back from the school, I will use the knowledge as a pilot program for the other blind here who want a guide dog.

Every week we turn away many blind people who want an education because we just don't have the physical facilities or a teaching staff to accomodate them. There is only the principal and me. We are planning a new building that will accomodate the living quarters for more blind people so that more will get an education.

Yours truly,
Henry Stelzer
U.S. Peace Corps
P.O. Box 554
Maseru 100, Lesotho
South Africa

International Briefs

Australia. The Australian National Social Sciences Library began publication in March of *Link-up,* a bimonthly newsletter about library services for handicapped people.

India. As part of the International Year of the Child program, a UNICEF grant was used by the Government of India Department of Social Welfare to provide free textbooks to fifteen schools for blind students in Maharashtra.

The Lighthouse for the Blind in Calcutta has begun publishing a magazine dealing with work for blind individuals.

Malaysia. The Malayan Association for the Blind is expanding its braille library to include reference material and professional literature. The library produces all its local-language books and some books in English. The collection had to be reestablished in 1971, when the library was destroyed by a flood.

The deputy librarian at the University of Malaysia, who visited NLS last year, is setting up a library section for blind students.

France. The English Language Library for the Blind, 5 avenue Daniel-Lesuere, 75007 Paris, lends recorded books of American and English literature to blind and partially sighted people in eighteen countries.

The books are recorded by a group of fifty volunteers who are a cross-section of the English-speaking community in Paris. The annual membership fee to receive the books is 100 francs.

England. Warwick University's Research Unit for the Blind has won a commission to design the computer system for producing Arabic braille for Saudi Arabia. The system, for use in a major Arabian publishing house, will allow keyboarders with no knowledge of braille to input text for automatic conversion to embossed metal plates from which braille books can be made. In the past, conversion from ordinary Arabic to contracted Arabic braille has required a skilled person, as it contains a large number of complex abbreviations to speed reading.

Overseas Outlook is published quarterly by National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20542.

All correspondence should be addressed to the Resources Coordination Unit.